

#1760

REGULATION ASSIGNMENT CONTROL SHEET

LOG CONTROL NUMBER: 61

ANALYST

ASSIGNED: CAREY

TYPE OF ACTION: NFP

**TITLE: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TRADITIONALLY
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS**

RECEIVED: 2/12/2002

DATE ASSIGNED: 2/12/2002

DATE DUE: 2/20/2002

ANALYST SIGNATURE: Shuli Carey

COMPLETION DATE: 2-20-02

FINAL APPROVAL: Joseph Schubar

DATE: Feb. 20, 2002

OMB NO: 1520-0019

REG PART:

Rudolph, Kim

From: Carey, Sheila
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2002 9:46 AM
To: Rudolph, Kim
Subject: FW: Review and Approval of NFP and CDN for Capacity Building--84.315

approve 1820-0018 expires 8/31/04

-----Original Message-----

From: Chesley, Ellen
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2002 6:53 AM
To: Fuller, Carole; March, Greg; Gregory, Wava; Rosen, Jeff; Liggett, Tish; Carey, Sheila
Subject: Review and Approval of NFP and CDN for Capacity Building--84.315

Good morning all.

Attached for your review are two files containing the documents. Your expeditious review of them will be greatly appreciated. If you concur with the documents, please e-mail both Carole Fuller and me with your approval.

Carole, on a side note, do we really need to include the number of projects in the NFP?

Thank you.

Ellen



Notice of Final
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Notice of Final Priority

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Capacity Building for Traditionally Underserved Populations

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces priorities under the Capacity Building for Traditionally Underserved Populations program. The Assistant Secretary may use this priority for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2002 and in later years. We take this action to focus on capacity building in areas of national need. We intend these priorities to improve the capacity and increase the participation of minority people and minority entities in programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act, as amended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities are effective 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Chesley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3318, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2649 Telephone: (202) 205-9481 or via Internet:

Ellen.Chesley@ed.gov

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Section 21 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the Capacity Building for Traditionally Underserved Populations program is designed for the support of projects that would provide training, technical assistance, or related activities in order to improve services provided under the Rehabilitation Act, as amended (Act), especially services provided to individuals from minority backgrounds. Section 21 speaks to enhancing the capacity and increasing the participation of “minority entities” in programs funded under the Act. “Minority entity” is defined under section 21(b)(5) of the Act as a historically Black college or university, Hispanic-serving institution of higher education, American Indian tribal college or university, or another institution of higher education whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent.

Under Section 21, only three types of awards can be made as follows:

Section 21(b)(2)(A)—Making awards to minority entities and Indian tribes to carry out activities under programs authorized under titles II, III, VI, and VII.

Section 21(b)(2)(B)—Making awards to minority entities and Indian tribes to conduct research, training, and technical assistance, or a related activity, to improve services provided under the Act, especially services provided to individuals from minority backgrounds.

Section 21(b)(2)(C)—Making awards to entities such as a State or public or private nonprofit agency or organization, such as an institution of higher education or an

Indian tribe to provide outreach and technical assistance to minority entities and Indian tribes to promote their participation in activities funded under the Act, including assistance to carry out such activities.

This notice of final priority identifies four priorities. Under Priority 1, Section 21(b)(2)(A) would apply. Under Priority 2, Section (b)(2)(A) would apply. Under Priority 3, Section (b)(2)(A) would apply. Under Priority 4, Section (b)(2)(C) would apply.

There are no differences between the notice of proposed priorities and this notice of final priorities.

Analysis Of Comments and Changes

In response to our invitation in the notice of proposed priorities, 20 parties submitted comments on the proposed priorities. An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priorities since publication of the notice of proposed priorities follow.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes—and suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority.

Comments: Four commenters recommended that we include a priority similar to Proposed Priority 1 for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), because there is a need for services in this area. Further, they indicated that TBI is an underserved population that should be included as a minority entity.

Discussion: RSA cannot consider this population a minority entity under this program. Section 21 specifically defines “minority entity” as a historically Black college or university, a Hispanic-serving institution of higher education, an American

Indian tribal college or university, or another institution of higher education whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent.

Changes: None

Comments: Six commenters recommended that for Proposed Priority 3—Establishing New Rehabilitation Training Programs--we utilize the Higher Education Institution's definition for Hispanic-serving institution of higher education. The Higher Education Institution's definition states that a Hispanic-serving institution of higher education is one which has an enrollment of 25 percent of Hispanic students.

Discussion: The Rehabilitation Services Administration adopted the Higher Education Institution's definition for Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education in October 2001 for the implementation of its capacity building projects. Therefore, these capacity building projects may assist Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education whose Hispanic student enrollment is 25 percent of the institution's student population.

Changes: None

Comments: Nine commenters recommended that Proposed Priority 4—Capacity Building for Minority Entities—should not only support minority institutions, but also agencies and organizations that are owned or controlled by minority people.

Discussion: We are not able to directly support minority agencies and organizations with significant minority control or ownership. The legislation in Section 21 clearly defines "minority entities" as a historically Black college or university, a Hispanic-serving institution higher education, an American Indian tribal college or university, or

another institution of higher education whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent. Such a change would require a change in the Act.

Changes: None

Comments: One commenter recommended that capacity building for minority entities should be widened to include other programs like special education and the 21st Century Learning Centers.

Discussion: The Act does not provide the authority to implement such an effort. It specifies that capacity building be directed to enhancing the capacity and increasing the participation of minority entities within programs funded under the Act.

Changes: None

Note: This notice does not solicit application. In any year in which we choose to use this priority, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register. When inviting applications we designate the priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority we give competitive preference to an application by either (1) awarding additional points, depending on how well or the extent to which the application meets the competitive priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the competitive priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105 (c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority we are particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

PRIORITIES

Capacity Building for Traditionally Underserved Populations

Priority 1--Train Staff of the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program

Priority: We will fund one project that meets this priority. The project funded must meet the requirements in section 21(b)(2)(B) of the Act. A project must provide training that would--

(1) Increase the capacity and skills of staff of federally funded independent living programs serving older blind minority consumers in networking towards building trust within racial and ethnic minority communities;

(2) Increase the ability of staff of federally funded independent living programs serving older blind racial and ethnic minority consumers to identify and build partnerships with key or specific organizations and resources that provide infrastructure supports and specialized services to racial and ethnic minority consumers and their families;

(3) Increase the skills and capacity of staff of federally funded independent living programs serving older blind racial and ethnic minority consumers to understand family and community values and traditions of aging racial and ethnic

(3) Specific training on the definitions of blindness and disability in the context of racial and ethnic minority cultures and the attitudes associated with these terms.

(4) Specific training on the implication of health-related conditions associated with certain racial and ethnic minority groups (i.e., diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, hypertension, etc.).

(5) Specific training on what are some of the "promising practices" that are currently being used to educate consumers from racial and ethnic minority groups about these medical conditions and their relationship to blindness.

Priority 2--Community Rehabilitation Programs Background

Priority: We will fund three projects that meet the priority. Projects funded must meet the requirements in section 21(b)(2)(B) of the Act.

Projects must--

(1) Focus on referring more minorities currently served by community rehabilitation programs having service agreements, as well as those not having service agreements, to the vocational rehabilitation system;

(2) Target community rehabilitation programs serving large numbers of minorities with disabilities;

(3) Involve partnerships with community rehabilitation programs that serve significant numbers of minorities with disabilities;

(4) Provide training on diversity;

(5) Develop and conduct a survey that looks at why clients and consumers from minority backgrounds are reluctant to enter, remain in, or successfully exit the vocational rehabilitation program;

(6) Design and implement strategies that address the findings of the survey to increase the numbers of clients and consumers from minority backgrounds who successfully navigate through the vocational rehabilitation system;

(7) Identify effective practice models for service provision to unserved and underserved populations;

(8) Disseminate those models across the United States to community rehabilitation program sites used by minority persons with disabilities;

(9) Disseminate information about the vocational rehabilitation program and its potential benefits to minorities and other appropriate community agencies and organizations involved in community outreach activities;

(10) Enhance the capacity of clinics and outreach personnel to detect and respond to potential clients and consumers who are reluctant to enter the vocational rehabilitation system;

(11) Employ public relations and marketing strategies to highlight the vocational rehabilitation program in minority communities;

(12) Include an evaluation component based upon clear, specific performance and outcome measures; and

(13) Report the results of the evaluation in its annual performance report.

Priority 3--Establishing New Rehabilitation Training Programs

Priority: We will fund four projects that meet the following priority. Projects funded must meet the requirements in section 21(b)(2)(B) of the Act.

Projects must--

(1) Enhance and increase the capacity of minority institutions of higher education to prepare more individuals for careers in the public vocational rehabilitation program, including individuals from minority backgrounds;

(2) Be located at minority institutions of higher education, including community colleges whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent, that are interested in establishing new first-time rehabilitation training programs at the associate degree, undergraduate degree, and graduate degree levels;

(3) Include an evaluation component based upon clear, specific performance and outcome measures; and

(4) Report the results of the evaluation in its annual performance report.

Priority 4--Capacity Building for Minority Entities

Priority: We will fund three projects that meet the priority. Projects funded must meet the requirements in section 21(b)(2)(C) of the Act.

Projects must--

(1) Provide outreach, capacity building, and technical assistance to minority entities and Indian tribes to promote their participation in activities funded under the Act, including assistance to carry out those activities;

(2) Provide a variety of training and technical assistance activities, including grant writing workshops that focus on RSA and NIDRR discretionary grant programs, the peer review process, selection criteria, training on disability legislation (i.e. Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, etc.), and technical assistance to minority entities that are first-time recipients of grants funded under the Act in order to increase their ability to carry out their grants;

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.315 Capacity Building for Traditionally Underserved Populations)

PROGRAM AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 718b

Dated:

Robert H. Pasternack, Ph.D.,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education
and Rehabilitative Services.

